

body's constant structure for many years now should be subjected to constant changes of nomenclature crops up at regular intervals.

The only criticism is a personal one. The English throughout the book is of the Shakespearean type, at times so precise and at others so flowery as to be pedantic. For instance, page 114, describing one of the approaches to the popliteal fossa: "A plan intending to exploit the rear of any situation solely from the flank might seem a hopeless paradox. But in our surgical assault we hold this clear advantage over generals—the place can turn obligingly and let us in"; or again: "So veins, bedevil intervention and complicate our much too simple picture of a place where vessels fork and arch—in triplicate."

Perhaps modern surgical textbooks have become too short and snappy, but the digest seems to be the order of the day.

Livingstone have produced for thirty shillings a book which few busy practising surgeons can afford to be without.

I. F.

AN INDEX OF DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF MAIN SYMPTOMS.

Edited by Herbert French, M.D., F.R.C.P., and A. H. Douthwaite, C.V.O., C.B.E., M.A., M.D.Oxon., F.R.C.P. John Wright & Sons. Pp. 1128.

THERE is little to add to the many favourable reviews which have appeared of the five previous editions of this well-known book.

While not a suitable book for the final-year student, it must be regarded as an admirable work of reference for medical practitioners, or for those proceeding to higher qualifications.

It is not easy to review so vast an undertaking in any detail, but one can say that it is difficult to think of a symptom which is not adequately dealt with, and the illustrations are particularly good.

There is little doubt that the present popularity of this book will be maintained by the new edition.

J. T. L.

HANDBOOK OF DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

By A. E. W. McLachlan, M.B., Ch.B.(Edin.), D.P.H., F.R.S.(Ed.). 15s.

AN excellent handbook of convenient size. The print is clear and the illustrations excellent, including twenty in colour. The subject matter is set forth in a clear and well-arranged manner. Differential diagnosis is shown both in the text and in tabular form.

Alternative forms of treatment are given, covering modern and accepted views. Much information is given in a concise and readable form. A useful book for students and practitioners.

H. E. H.

THE MEDICAL ANNUAL, 1945. Sixty-Third Year. Edited by Sir Henry Tidy, K.B.E., M.D., M.A., F.R.C.P., and A. Rendle Short, M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P. Pp. 396. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. 25s.

THERE are three unchanging characteristics of each year's Medical Annual under its present editors. The first two are the perennial enthusiasm with which they welcome each advance and the shrewdness with which they assess its value; and the third is the expert and lucid précis-writing of the experienced contributors. Among the more noteworthy articles this year are those on primary atypical pneumonia, scrub typhus, the R.G. factor, ligature of patent ductus arteriosus, and there is a special review of the indications and contra-indications for penicillin treatment. There are thirty-seven plates, several of them excellently reproduced in colour.